

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Former Springfield Attorney Charged with Defrauding Clients**

Springfield, IL - A federal grand jury returned an indictment today charging a former Springfield attorney with defrauding his clients of more than \$130,000. The U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Jan Paul Miller, announced that William James Hogan, age 43, of Elmwood Park, Illinois, was charged with two counts of wire fraud.

The indictment alleges that from the spring of 1997 to September 2003, Hogan devised a scheme to obtain money for himself by misdirecting funds that clients entrusted to him to invest on their behalf, when in fact he never intended to invest the money and instead spent the money on personal living expenses. Hogan allegedly represented himself to clients as an attorney experienced in tax and financial matters. The indictment alleges Hogan represented that the interest earned on their investments would be guaranteed by the U.S. government and would earn interest between 15% and 50%. Further, Hogan allegedly represented that he was investing clients' money in Merrill Lynch financial products; however, he was not authorized to offer or sell any investment products on behalf of Merrill Lynch.

If convicted, each offense of wire fraud carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years imprisonment. The Clerk of the U.S. District Court will issue a summons for Hogan to appear in federal court at a later date.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Harris.

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